



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/792,149	03/03/2004	John Joseph Scarchilli	9173L	4849

27752 7590 04/28/2006

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

ALEXANDER, REGINALD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1761

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/792,149

Applicant(s)

SCARCHILLI ET AL.

Examiner

Reginald L. Alexander

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-10, 13, 14 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 11, 12 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 16-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Werner et al.

There is disclosed in Werner an infusing pod comprising a fluid distribution member 16, 20 situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member 10 wherein the first filter member is sealed to the fluid distribution member forming a first interior chamber (containing a material 12), the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection nozzle 20 protruding downward from the top plane into the interior chamber, the injection nozzle has at least one infusion port 24 that directs fluid into the first interior chamber in a direction that is not normal to the top plane.

In regards to the liquid dispersible material used, while coffee grounds are shown, Werner recites that other types could be used. The type of material is not structurally limiting to the device itself. The structural limitations of the claim have been met by the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 14 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai '007 in view of Clermont.

There is disclosed in Cai a liquid infusion pod 30 comprising a fluid distribution member 44 situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member 40 that is releaseably attached to the liquid distribution member, wherein the first filter member and the fluid distribution member form a first interior chamber and within the first interior chamber is a self contained, pre-dosed pod 42a having a second interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material 33 (see figure 11).

Clermont discloses a fluid distribution member comprising an injection nozzle protruding downward from a top plane into and interior chamber, the nozzle having at least one infusion port (apertures) that directs fluid into the chamber.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute the fluid distribution member of Cai with that disclosed in Clermont, in order to introduce fluid to the material at a level below an upper surface thereof.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Werner et al.

There is disclosed in Wu a liquid infusion pod comprising a fluid distribution member 14, 22 situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member 21 wherein the filter and distribution member form a first interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material, the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection

Art Unit: 1761

nozzle 22 protruding downward from the top plane into the first interior chamber, the injection nozzle has at least one infusion port and at least one deflection plate 15 wherein liquid flows through the infusion port and is directed onto the deflection plate (see figure 4).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7, 11, 12 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Seeney et al., Cavalluzzi, Rodth, Lehrer, Sargent et al. and Cai '345 are cited for their disclosure of the state of the art.

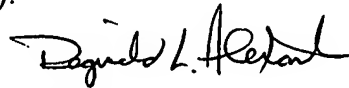
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reginald L. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1761

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

rla
26 April 2006


Reginald L. Alexander
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761